



FOODBANK For Immediate Release

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

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Foodbank of Santa Barbara County Holds Disaster Preparedness Conference Along With Feeding America Representatives and the Red Cross for Foodbank Member Agencies Providing Emergency Services

Santa Barbara, CA – The Foodbank of Santa Barbara County is conducting a disaster preparedness conference tomorrow at the Marriot Hotel in Buellton for more than 30 member agencies that provide emergency services through food distributions, preparation and by providing shelter. The half day conference includes representatives from Feeding America, the National Network of Food Banks, the Orfalea Foundation, and the Red Cross’s Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD). The conference will focus on three areas of learning including the following:

First session - 8:45 to 9:45: David Ross, VOAD Coordinator, Red Cross, will describe an earthquake scenario followed by a table top discussion with problem statements relevant to the earthquake for the member agencies to solve.

Second session - 10:00 to 11:15: Patrick Crawford, director of disaster services and Margaret Larson, disaster services specialist, both representatives of Feeding America, will be conducting a workshop on Continuity of Service or Who’s Open for Business. This workshop will provide the member agencies with the tools they need to develop their own agency disaster contingency plan.

Third session - 11:30 to 12:30: Ross will lead a discussion on Service Delivery and Foodbank staff will hold a One Touch Call demonstration.

About the Foodbank

The Foodbank, celebrating 26 years of service provides a vital link between the multi-faceted food industry and people in need of food. With warehouses in Santa Barbara and Santa Maria the Foodbank serves over 220 social service organizations and churches. More than 43 percent of those served are youths under the age of 18. In 2008, the Foodbank distributed 8 million pounds of food of which more than 2 million pounds was fresh produce to 135,000 people in need throughout Santa Barbara County.

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